



SYMBOL	GEOLOGIC UNIT	MATERIALS (Listed in decreasing order of abundance)	TOPOGRAPHY
	Stream alluvium (flood-plain and stream-terrace deposits)	Sand, gravel, and silt. Low to high permeability. Poor to good drainage. Permeability and drainage generally are better in stream-terrace deposits than in modern flood-plain sediments.	Flat to gently sloping.
	Swamp and tidal-marsh deposits	Peat, silt, clay, and sand. Poor drainage.	Flat.
	Beach and dune deposits	Sand and gravel. High permeability. Materials are well drained, but water table is close to surface.	Low ridges and mounds, or sloping surface.
	Eolian deposits	Sand. Moderate to high permeability. Good drainage.	Dune ridges and mounds, or blanket deposit that conforms to surface of underlying unit.
	Talus deposits	Large, angular rock fragments.	Steeply sloping rock piles at the bottoms of cliffs.
	Glacial-lake bottom deposits	Silt, clay, and sand, commonly as thin, inter-stratified layers of various particle sizes. Low to moderate permeability. Poor to fair drainage.	Flat to gently sloping except where dissected by modern streams.
	Glacial-lake beach deposits	Gravel and sand. Typically thin and of limited extent. High permeability. Good drainage.	Low ridges or sloping surface. May be associated with wave-cut benches on hillsides.
	Glacial-marine deposits (Presumpscot Formation)	Silt, clay, and sand. Commonly a clayey silt, but sand is very abundant at the surface in some places. Locally fossiliferous. Map unit includes small areas of till, sand, and gravel that are not completely covered by marine sediment. Ops: Mostly sand, but may be underlain by silt and clay. Moderate to high permeability. Fair to good drainage. Op: Mostly silt and clay. Low permeability. Poor drainage.	Flat to gently sloping except where dissected by modern streams. Commonly has a branching network of steep-walled stream gullies.
	Emerged marine-beach deposits	Gravel and sand. High permeability. Good drainage. Typically thin and of limited extent.	Low ridges or sloping surface. May be associated with wave-cut benches on hillsides.
	Glacial-stream deposits	Sand and gravel. May include minor till. Commonly overlapped or entirely buried by glacial-marine deposits in the coastal lowland. Qgo: High permeability. Good drainage. Qg: Moderate to high permeability. Good drainage.	Qgo: Flat (outwash deposits). Qg: Flat-topped landforms, bounded in part by steep sides (kame terraces and kame deltas); hummocky terrain with hills (kames) and depressions (kettles), or ridges (eskers). Letters indicate good examples of particular landforms: d delta k kame kt kame terrace
	End-moraine deposits	Till and/or sand and gravel. Commonly overlain by glacial-marine deposits in coastal areas. Permeability and drainage are highly variable, even over short distances in a single moraine. Qmg: Composed mostly of sand and gravel. Qmh: Composed of till, sand, and gravel. Qmt: Composed mostly of till. Qm: Composition not specified.	Ridges. Commonly arcuate, discontinuous, and in groups. Size range: 3-75 ft. high, 20-1,000 ft. wide, and 100 ft. to several miles long. Qmh: Hummocky topography.
	Till	Heterogeneous mixture of sand, silt, clay, and stones. Stratification is rare. Includes two varieties: basal till and ablation till. Basal till is fine grained and very compact, with low permeability and poor drainage. Ablation till is loose, sandy, and stony, with moderate permeability and fair to good drainage. Unit generally overlies bedrock, but may overlie or include sand and gravel.	Commonly a blanket deposit that conforms to bedrock surface. Also forms glacially stream-lined hills (including drumlins), where till thickness locally exceeds 100 feet.
	Bedrock outcrops	Dots show locations of individual outcrops. Ruled pattern indicates areas of many outcrops and/or thin surficial deposits (generally less than 10 ft. thick). Symbol "rk" indicates areas of barren ledge. Outcrops mapped largely by interpretation of aerial photography in off-road areas.	
	Artificial fill	Composed of till, sand and gravel, rock or various man-made materials (mainly trash in large dumps and landfills).	
	Contact	Boundary between adjacent map units. Dashed where inferred.	
	Scarp	Separates stream terrace from modern flood plain and adjacent terraces from each other. Machures on downslope side.	
	Drumlin	Glacially streamlined hill that has been elongated in direction of ice movement. Symbol shows direction of long axis. Generally composed of till and/or bedrock (rarely sand and gravel). Till is very thick in parts of many drumlins.	
	Glacial striation locality	Point of observation at tip of arrow. Arrow indicates ice-movement direction as inferred from striations (scratches on bedrock caused by glacial abrasion).	
	Crescentic mark locality	Point of observation at tip of arrow. Arrow indicates ice-movement direction as inferred from crescentic marks on bedrock surface.	
	Grooved till surface	Symbols show lengths and directions of narrow ridges carved in till by flow of glacial ice.	
	Area of many large boulders		
	Cirque	A steep-walled, half-bowl shaped basin. Formed by glacial erosion in high mountainous areas of Maine.	
	End moraine	Ridge of till or sand and gravel deposited at margin of glacier. Barbs point in direction of ice movement. Symbol is used in part to indicate moraines that are mostly buried by water-laid glacial sediment, as well as moraines that are too narrow to be outlined by a contact line at the scale of the map.	
	Dip direction of delta forest beds	Number is approximate altitude in feet of contact between topset and forest beds, which marks former position of sea level or glacial lake level (generally sea level in coastal Maine). Point of observation at tip of arrow.	
	Dip direction of cross bedding in glacial-stream deposits	Indicates direction of flow of glacial meltwater streams.	
	Crest of esker	Shows trend of sand and gravel ridge that was deposited in meltwater tunnel beneath glacier. Chevrons point in direction of meltwater flow.	
	Kettle	Depression created by melting of large mass of buried glacial ice and collapse of overlying sediments.	
	Meltwater channel	Channel eroded by glacial meltwater stream. Arrow indicates known or probable direction of stream flow.	
	Meltwater channel	Flow direction not specified.	
	Till or sand and gravel pit	Letter symbols indicate materials exposed in pit:	
	active or unchecked	t till t _l loose, sandy ablation till t _c compact, fine-grained basal till cy flowtill cy clay st silt s sand ps pebbly to cobbly sand p pebble gravel c cobble gravel b boulder gravel g gravel, undifferentiated rk bedrock rs rottenstone (decomposed bedrock)	
	unchecked		
	active or unchecked		
	inactive		
	Source of dated sample	Superposed symbols indicate superposition of materials. Read hyphen as "to." Symbols show collection site and laboratory sample number of ¹⁴ C dated shells, wood, or other organic material.	

RECONNAISSANCE
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY
OF THE
SKOWHEGAN
QUADRANGLE, MAINE
OPEN-FILE NO. 86-38
BY
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SCALE 1:62,500
0 1 2 3 4 MILES
0 3000 6000 9000 12000 15000 18000 21000 FEET
0 1 2 3 4 KILOMETERS

Hanson
Caldwell
(1)

Hanson
(2)

SOURCE MAP

(1) Financial assistance provided by a 208 Water Quality Planning grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
(2) Financial assistance provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

For more detailed information refer to the "Surficial Geology Handbook for Coastal Maine" by W.B. Thompson, 1979.

SEQUENCE OF GLACIAL RECESSION
AND
DEPOSITION OF SURFICIAL MATERIALS
IN SOUTHERN MAINE

13,000 years ago: Glacier was receding rapidly and much of southern Maine was ice-free. Land was still depressed from weight of ice, resulting in extensive marine submergence of lowland areas.

13,500 years ago: Continental glacier covered most of Maine, but was receding from the coastal lowland. Sea was in contact with ice margin.

11,000 years ago: Glacier had disappeared from central and southern Maine. Uplift of land had caused sea to retreat.

QUATERNARY
Pleistocene (Wisconsinan)
Holocene
Youngest
Oldest

Qal Qs Qbd
Qe Qta
Qgo Ql Qbl
Qg Qps Qbm
Qmg Qmh Qmt Qm
Qt
rk

BEM — Buried end moraine
BR — Bedrock ridge
D — Delta
DR — Drumlins
DS — Distributary stream
E — Esker
EM — End moraine
IB — Ice block
K — Kettle
M — Marine sediments
ML — Marine limit
OP — Outwash plain
S — Seawater
T — Till

Text by W.B. Thompson. Graphics by R.D. Tucker.